

RECOGNIZING ROBERT M.
IAMELLO, AIA

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2024

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Robert (Bob) M. Iamello whose dedication to the Amerigo Vespucci Society and his Italian heritage will be recognized by the organization with its "Man of the Year" award on June 8, 2024.

Robert Iamello maintains his Italian heritage through his family and his involvement with the Amerigo Vespucci Society (AVS). Raised in West Long Branch, New Jersey, Mr. Iamello grew up in a household that embraced its Calabrian lineage. His parents and grandparents often conversed with each other in Italian, introducing Mr. Iamello to the language. In college, he studied abroad in Venice, and has visited Italy many times since. Together with Diane, his wife of nearly 45 years, he has two children and three grandchildren. He takes great pride in his family and heritage, sharing his experiences with other members of the AVS.

Mr. Iamello received his Associate Degree in Engineering for Architectural Engineering Technology from Wentworth Institute of Technology and his Bachelor in Architecture from the University of Kentucky. Throughout his 47-year career, he was employed by architectural firms in New York and New Jersey before opening Ocean Township-based Iamello Architectural Studio LLC with his daughter in 2014. Mr. Iamello is a member of several architectural organizations and has been recognized for his work.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Robert Iamello as the recipient of the Amerigo Vespucci Society "Man of the Year" award. This honor is a testament to his hard work, dedication, and service to family and community.

HONORING MARY HENDERSON

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2024

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a visionary advocate and leader in my state who, for decades, has worked to improve the lives of her fellow citizens. Over her influential career, Mary Henderson has worked as an attorney and co-founded a legal aid and economic justice nonprofit—among many other roles—to consistently address root causes of poverty.

Mary's advocacy for Maine people began at Pine Tree Legal Assistance, a nonprofit organization which provides free civil legal assistance. As a staff attorney, Mary tirelessly provided representation on a variety of cases. Under Mary's guidance, countless people were able to access government supports for which they were eligible but had previously been improperly denied.

In 1996, Mary co-founded Maine Equal Justice, a nonprofit civil legal aid and economic justice organization. In her role as Executive Director, Mary assisted in the acquisition of a

location and the securing of funds to create a sustainable and reliable resource for Maine's most vulnerable populations. Through her defense of government programs for public healthcare, education access, and housing and food security, Mary's work has improved the lives of thousands of Maine people.

Since leaving Maine Equal Justice, Mary has brought her expertise and unwavering dedication to the Office of Substance Abuse, Maine Department of Labor, Office of Maine Care Services, National Academy for State Health Policy, Maine Children's Alliance, and Preble Street Resource Center. In each of her roles, Mary has intentionally centered the voices and experiences of the people of Maine who are served by these critical government and anti-poverty programs.

I had the great pleasure of working with Mary during my years in the State House and was able to see firsthand how the State of Maine benefitted from her knowledge, skills, and advocacy. I am very proud to represent her and the State of Maine in Congress. I wish Mary continued success, and I wholeheartedly thank her for her many years of influential work.

APPRECIATING BULGARIA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am grateful to recognize the 120th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States of America and the Republic of Bulgaria.

September 19, 2023, marks the 120th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States of America and the Republic of Bulgaria. The first United States Diplomatic Agent to Bulgaria, John B. Jackson, presented his credentials on September 19, 1903. The first Special Envoy and Minister Plenipotentiary of Bulgaria to the United States, Stefan Panaretov, presented his credentials to President Woodrow Wilson on December 22, 1914. Today Bulgaria is well represented in Washington by Ambassador Georgi Aanayotov who also was an election observer for the South Carolina Presidential Primary in the tradition of former Ambassador Elena Poptodorova.

The enduring ties between the two nations are exemplified by the founding of the American College of Sofia, dating back to a school opened by American missionaries in Bulgaria in 1860. On September 25, 2023, the United States and Bulgaria held the second high-level Strategic Dialogue to advance their bilateral, regional, and global agenda and to further enhance cooperation as friends, Allies, and partners.

The United States and Bulgaria stand together as North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Allies, determined to safeguard the freedom, common heritage, and civilization of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law, seeking to promote stability and well-being in the North Atlantic area. They have signed numerous important documents in key areas, including defense and security cooperation, 5G security, civil nuclear cooperation, science and

technology, and combating foreign disinformation and propaganda.

The United States and Bulgaria stand united against aggression and terror, condemning in the strongest possible terms Russia's brutal and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine, and the heinous attacks on the Israeli people by the terrorist organization Hamas. Bulgaria remains committed to the collective defense, as exemplified by hosting a NATO battlegroup with United States participation, and by establishing a NATO littoral countries mine countermeasures task force to secure freedom of navigation in the Black Sea. Prior to becoming a NATO member and subsequently, as an ally, Bulgaria participated in the United States-led and NATO missions and operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Kosovo, and the Mediterranean.

Bulgaria was among the very first countries to denounce terrorism and pledge active support to the United States in the fight against terrorism following the attacks of September 11, 2001. Bulgaria provided overflight and basing rights at the town of Bourgas for Operation Enduring Freedom, representing the first stationing of foreign forces in Bulgaria since World War II, and Bulgaria deployed a nuclear, biological, and chemical protection detachment to Afghanistan as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). The United States and Bulgaria recognize that Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has only underscored the geostrategic importance of the Black Sea region, and the need to ensure that the region remains free and secure from threats posed by Russia and other malign actors.

The bilateral Defense Cooperation Agreement (DCA) was signed in 2006, regulating the status of forces, allowing for joint United States-Bulgarian military facilities, providing for bilateral and multilateral exercises, and facilitating the movement and temporary stationing of aircraft and vessels. Bulgaria continues to invest in defense capabilities, interoperability, and the development of a credible defense posture in cooperation with the United States, as exemplified by the purchase of sixteen F-16 Block 70 fighter jets from the United States, and intending to purchase United States Stryker combat vehicles.

The United States and Bulgaria share the understanding that energy security is crucial component of national security, and Bulgaria has made significant progress in reducing its dependency on Russian energy resources and in diversifying its energy sector in collaboration with the United States. The two nations acknowledge the significance of intensifying their cooperation in innovations, research, and emerging technologies. The people-to-people exchanges between the United States and Bulgaria are vital for bolstering the bilateral relationship and Bulgaria has made progress towards meeting criteria for visa-free travel of Bulgarian citizens to the United States. The shared commitment to counter disinformation and hybrid threats was demonstrated by the signing of a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding on Countering Foreign Information Manipulation on September 25, 2023.

The year 2023 marks the 80th anniversary of the historic rescue of 50,000 Bulgarian Jews during the World War II. It is acknowledged with regret and sadness that 11,343 Jews were deported to Nazi concentration camps from Macedonia, Thrace, and Pirot, territories administered by Bulgaria at that time.

Bulgaria takes pride in its Jewish community and remains resolute in its stance against any forms of discrimination, intolerance, and anti-semitism.

The vibrant Bulgarian-American community is contributing to America's prosperity, including to its remarkable economic achievements, the preservation of its technological edge, and the enrichment of American culture and society, through its diverse talents, rich traditions, art, music, dance, cuisine, and language. Bulgaria's presence in the world's biggest library, the United States Library of Congress is marked with a collection of over 50,000 volumes of Bulgarian cultural heritage, brought together by the Library of Congress in collaboration with Bulgarian individuals and institutions since the 1880s. The American University in Bulgaria, the pioneer of American-style liberal arts education in Eastern Europe, has been delivering exceptional education for more than three decades. There are 41 Bulgarian Sunday schools in the United States, which are contributing to the preservation of Bulgarian language and traditions and to the cultural diversity in the United States. Bulgaria is the place of origin of the Cyrillic alphabet, which is currently taught in the Bulgarian Sunday schools across the United States.

The Bulgarian Caucus in the House of Representatives was formed in June 2002 and the following year a group for friendship with the United States was formed in the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria demonstrating a dedication to the bilateral relationship. America's most successful and enduring relationships are built on shared values.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, June 4, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 5

10 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine how climate is already challenging insurance markets.

SD-608

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the budget of the Federal Highway Administration.

SD-406

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine revitalizing and renewing GSP, AGOA and other trade preference programs.

SD-215

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine streamlining the Federal cybersecurity regulatory process, focusing on the path to harmonization.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending calendar nominations.

SD-226

Special Committee on Aging

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold a joint hearing to examine heroes at home, focusing on improving services for veterans and their caregivers.

SD-G50

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of John Bradford Wiegmann, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

SH-216

3 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights

To hold hearings to examine strengthening United States economic leadership, focusing on the role of competition in enhancing economic resiliency.

SD-226

JUNE 6

10 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1306, to reauthorize the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, S. 4199, to authorize additional district judges for the district courts and convert temporary judgeships, and the nominations of Michelle Williams Court, Anne Hwang, and Cynthia Valenzuela Dixon, each to be a United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Sarah Netburn, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, and Stacey D. Neumann, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine.

SD-G50

JUNE 11

5 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2025.

SR-232A

5:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Airland

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2025.

SR-232A

JUNE 12

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2025.

SR-232A

10 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2025.

SR-232A

10:15 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Personnel

Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2025.

SH-216

10:45 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Seapower

Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2025.

SH-216

11:15 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2025.

SR-232A

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2025.

SR-222

JUNE 13

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2025.

SR-222

2 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine silenced dissent, focusing on the plight of political prisoners and search for accountability.

TBA

JUNE 14

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2025.

SR-222